

WHEREAS, Maria Wipf Kleinsasser migrated to the United States in the Nineteenth Century; and,

WHEREAS, Maria is the sole survivor of the wave of Russian Hutterites who migrated to this country at that time; and,

WHEREAS, Maria was less than one year old when, in 1879, she was brought to this country by her parents, Reverend and Mrs. Johann L. Wipf; and,

WHEREAS, Between 1874 and 1879 thousands of Hutterites, Maria among them, migrated to the Midwest in search of religious freedom; and,

WHEREAS, Maria became a South Dakota homesteader, which also makes her the last living member of the "Prairieleut"; and,

WHEREAS, The religious convictions held by Maria and her people have endured for over four hundred years, and continue to endure in many of their descendants; and,

WHEREAS, The year 1898 marked the entry into the state of matrimony of Maria Wipf and John Kleinsasser, whereafter John served two terms in the South Dakota House of Representatives; and,

WHEREAS, Maria and John became the proud parents of eight children, who in turn have gifted them with thirteen Grandchildren; forty-two Great Grandchildren; and nine Great-Great-Grandchildren; and,

WHEREAS, The rich cultural heritage which Maria and the other members of the Hutterian Brethren brought with them, these many years ago, to South Dakota, is a deeply valued and treasured sentiment of our fine State today; and,

WHEREAS, Tuesday, October 31, 1978, marks the Centennial Anniversary of the birth of Maria Wipf Kleinsasser; and,

WHEREAS, This event is worthy of public recognition in the State of South Dakota and it is fitting and proper that the Governor take note of this special occasion:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARVEY WOLLMAN, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, October 31, 1978, as

MARIA WIPF KLEINSASSER DAY

In South Dakota, and join with her many friends and relatives in wishing her a day filled with love, joy, friendship, and many happy memories.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirtieth Day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

ATTACHED

HARVEY WOLLMAN, GOVERNOR